

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

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PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 AID-05

IGA-01 /081 W

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O R 201130Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4023

IMFO RUDKFDQ/AMEMBASSY LISBON 2114

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 1200

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI AO

SUBJECT: MPLA SUSPECTS MASSIVE U.S. SUPPORT FOR FNLA

1. DURING A CONVERSATION WITH CHIEF OF INFORMATION SERVICES LUIS DE ALMEIDA ON AUGUST 19 HE BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF WHAT HE CALLED MASSIVE U.S. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR THE FNLA. HE SAID THE MPLA IS GATHERING EVIDENCE AND IS NOW CONVINCED OF OUR INVOLVEMENT.

2. ALMEIDA CITED SEVERAL REASONS WHY THE MPLA HAS CONCLUDED WE ARE BEHIND THE FNLA:

A) PRESIDENT MOBUTU OF ZAIRE DOES NOT HAVE THE FINANCIAL MEANS TO PROVIDE THE FNLA WITH THE KIND OF HELP IT IS NOW GETTING. HE MUST BE GETTING ASSISTANCE, AND HE MUST BE GETTING IT FROM THE U.S. THE MUCH BALLYHOODED REMOVAL OF THE U.S. AMBASSADOR WAS A PLOY
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BY MOBUTU TO OBTAIN MORE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE U.S.

FOR HIS SAGGING ECONOMY AND IN NO WAY AFFECTED
LINKS BETWEEN THE U.S., ZAIRE AND THE FNLA.

B) THE MPLA HAS BEEN WATCHING THE MOVEMENT
BY AIR OF PEOPLE BETWEEN KINSHASA AND LUANDA
AND IS AWARE OF THE NUMEROUS TRIPS MADE BY ONE OF
THE OFFICERS ON MY STAFF.

C) THE U.S. AND EUROPEAN PRESS IS EMBARKED
ON A CAMPAIGN OF VILLIFICATION AGAINST THE MPLA.
DESPATCHES INVARIABLY TALK ABOUT MARXIST OR SOVIET-
BACKED MPLA AND MAKE THE PRESENT STRUGGLE OUT TO BE
ONE OF COMMUNISTS AGAINST ANTI-COMMUNISTS. MPLA
FINDS IT EXCEEDINGLY STRANGE THAT THE TENOR OF WIRE
SERVICE DESPATCHES IM UNIFORMLY HOSTILE TO THE MPLA.

D) EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN LUANDA HAVE
TOLD THE MPLA THAT THE U.S. HAS PUT INTO OPERATION
AN AIR BRIDGE BETWEEN GERMANY AND KINSHASA. ANOTHER
AIR BRIDGE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN KINSHASA AND THE
FORMER PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE BASE AT NEGAGE, AS WELL
AS CARMONA, TO MOVE ARMS AND EQUIPMENT TO THE FNLA.

3. MPLA BELIEVES THE FNLA STRATEGY IS TO BOMB THE
CITY FROM PLANES, MOVE INTO POSITION WITH HEAVY
ARTILLERY TO CONTINUE THE BOMBARDMENT FROM THE
GROUND AND THEN ADVANCE WITH INFANTRY.

4. TWO WEEKS AGO ALMEIDA WAS TELLING ME THERE WAS
NO WAY THE FNLA COULD BREAK THROUGH MPLA DEFENSES.
IN THIS LATEST CONVERSATION HE SAID THE MPLA DOES NOT
HAVE AS MANY WEAPONS AS PEOPLE THINK, BUT THAT THE
POPULACE WILL FIGHT WITH CANE KNIVES TO REPEL THE
INVADERS. HIS MOOD HAS TURNED FROM ONE OF EUPHORIA
AFTER THE JULY BATTLES TO ONE OF REAL CONCERN.
HE SAID THAT NOW THAT THE U.S. IS SUPPLYING FNLA,
THERE IS NO LONGER ANY REASON FOR ANYONE TO
COMPLAIN ABOUT SOVIET AID TO THE MPLA.

5. I TOLD ALMEIDA THAT I DID NOT HAVE ANYONE
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SHUTTLLING BETWEEN KINSHASA AND LUANDA AND THAT HIS
SUSPICIONS WERE UNFOUNDED, BUT HE IS CONVINCED
THAT WE ARE UP TO SOMETHING. HE WILL ALSO NOT
BE SHAKEN IN HIS BELIEF THAT THE U.S. AND EUROPEAN
PRESS ARE PART OF THE CONSPIRACY TO BLACKEN THE
NAME OF THE MPLA.
KILLORAN

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